

The **Board of Examiners for Nursing** held a meeting on February 19, 2020 at the Department of Public Health Complex, 410 - 470 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, Connecticut in room 470 A/B.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Patricia C. Bouffard, RN, Chair
Jason Blando, Public Member
Mary M. Brown, RN
Mary Dietmann, RN
Lisa S. Freeman, Public Member
Jennifer Long, APRN
Geraldine Marrocco, RN
Gina M. Reiners, RN

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Elizaida Delgado, LPN

ALSO PRESENT: Stacy Schulman, Legal Counsel to the Board, DPH
Helen Smith, RN, Nurse Consultant, DPH
Brittany Allen, Staff Attorney, DPH
Linda Fazzina, Staff Attorney, DPH
Joelle Newton, Staff Attorney, DPH
Leslie Scoville, Staff Attorney, DPH
Diane Wilan, Staff Attorney, DPH
Agnieszka Salek, Hearings Liaison, DPH
Gail Gregoriades, Court Reporter

Chair Patricia Bouffard called the meeting to order at 8:32 a.m.

STUDENTS

CHAIR UPDATES

Nothing to Report

OPEN FORUM

Nothing to Report

NATIONAL COUNCIL STATE BOARDS OF NURSING

Save a Date for the 20th Annual Meeting on August 12 to 14, 2020 in Chicago.

Chair Bouffard participated in an education consultant call regarding substance abuse disorder and legalized marijuana use. Mary D. and Chair Bouffard registered for a webinar held on February 4th: Nurses Educational Approval Guidelines Virtual Conference. A summary of the research methods was provided followed by a discussion on the findings. The 42 State Study Survey demonstrated how boards of nursing could approve pre-licensure programs, using more than just NCLEX scores. Chair Bouffard will forward the study to Helen, all board members, and Marcia at CT League for Nursing who does our survey to change or add some of the questions for educational programs that we send out at the end of the year.

MINUTES

Gina M. Reiners made a motion as corrected, seconded by Mary Dietmann, to approve the minutes from January 15, 2020. The motion passed with all in favor.

SCHOOL ISSUES

A. Godwin University – Name Change

Goodwin College has changed its name, it is now Goodwin University.

Geraldine Marrocco arrived at 8:50 am

B. Lincoln Technical Institute

Patricia DeLucia was present from Lincoln Technical Institute
Gina M. Reiners made a motion to approve Patricia DeLucia, RN, MSN as Corporate Dean of Nursing for Lincoln Technical Institute, seconded by Mary Dietmann. All in favor. The motion passed unanimously.

C. Porter & Chester Institute – Plan of Correction – Monthly update

Debra Hessell and Nancy Brunet were present from Porter & Chester Institute. Helen Smith, Nurse Consultant, DPH, provided a synopsis of the Porter & Chester’s plan of correction monthly update.
Ms. Hessell and Ms. Brunet answered questions from the Board.

Lisa Freeman arrived at 9:18 am

D. Southern Connecticut State University – Approval Interim Director of Nursing

Geraldine Marrocco made a motion to approve Susan Westrick, JD ,MS, RN as Interim Director of Nursing, seconded by Lisa Freeman. The motion passed unanimously.

SCOPE OF PRACTICE

Helen Smith, Nurse Consultant, DPH provided a summary of nursing scope of practice inquiries received by the Department of Public Health during January, 2020. 67 calls were received in January.

MEMORANDA OF DECISION

Jennifer Rivers-Biltcliffe, L.P.N. - Petition No. 2017-1043

The Board reviewed the draft decision in this matter and determined that course work relating documentation/chart review needs to be added. An amended draft decision will be reviewed at the next meeting.

LICENSE REINSTATEMENT HEARING REQUEST

Natalie Primini, LPN

Ms. Primini was present but was not represented.

The Board reviewed a request for a reinstatement hearing from Ms. Primini, whose licensed practical nurse license was revoked effective April 20, 2014. Lisa Freeman made a motion, seconded by Gina M. Reiners, to grant Ms. Primini a reinstatement hearing. The motion passed unanimously.

CONSENT ORDERS

Buenna Neupavre, LPN - Petition No: 2019-477

Diane Wilan, Staff Attorney, Department of Public Health presented a Consent Order in the matter of Buenna Neupavre, LPN.

Ms. Neupavre was present and represented by Michael Brown, Esq.

Gina Reiners moved, and Mary Dietmann seconded, to approve the Consent Order. The motion passed. Chair Bouffard opposed. Chair Bouffard signed the Order which imposes a reprimand, a six month probation and a \$1000.00 civil penalty.

Dianne Mealy, RN - Petition No: 2019-835

Joelle Newton, Staff Attorney, Department of Public Health presented a Consent Order in the matter of Dianne Mealy, RN.

Ms. Mealy was not present and was not represented by counsel.

The board requested that the investigative report be presented for review. This matter will be reviewed at the next meeting.

Christopher Vallas, RN - Petition No: 2017-638

Diane Wilan, Staff Attorney, Department of Public Health presented a Consent Order in the matter of Christopher Vallas, RN.

Mr. Vallas was present with Attorney John D'Ambrosio. Jennifer Long moved and Mary Dietmann seconded, to approve the Consent Order. The motion passed unanimously. Chair Bouffard signed the Order which imposes a reprimand.

Carissa Kelly, RN, AP RN - Petition Nos: 2019-1023; 2019-1025

Joelle Newton, Staff Attorney, Department of Public Health presented a Consent Order in the matter of Dianne Mealy, RN.

Ms. Kelly was not present and was not represented by counsel.

Mary Brown moved, and Mary Dietmann seconded, to approve the Consent Order. Approval of the Consent Order failed unanimously. The board requested that the full investigative report from Massachusetts be presented for review.

Jane Buckley, APRN - Petition No: 2018-725

Brittany Allen, Staff Attorney, Department of Public Health presented a Consent Order in the matter of Jane Buckley, APRN.

Ms. Buckley was not present. Geraldine Marrocco moved, and Mary Dietmann seconded, to approve the Consent Order. Lisa Freeman was opposed. Chair Bouffard signed the Order which imposes a reprimand, a \$500.00 civil penalty, and probation for one year with a 20% records review.

HEARINGS

Daisy Acosta RN - Petition No. 2019-1379

Leslie Scoville, Staff Attorney was present for the Department of Public Health. Respondent was not present and was not represented.

Gina M. Reiners made a motion, seconded by Geraldine Marrocco, that the Board grant the Department of Public Health's oral motion to deem the allegations admitted based on an Answer to the Statement of Charges not being filed. The motion passed unanimously.

Following close of the hearing the Board conducted fact-finding.

Gina M. Reiners moved and Geraldine Marrocco seconded that Ms. Acosta be found as charged. The motion passed unanimously.

Gina M. Reiners moved and Geraldine Marrocco seconded that Ms. Acosta's license be revoked. The motion passed unanimously.

Amanda Hart, RN - Petition No. 2019-1360

Brittany Allen, Staff Attorney was present for the Department of Public Health. Respondent was present but was not represented.

Gina M. Reiners moved and Geraldine Marrocco seconded that Ms. Hart be found as charged. The motion passed unanimously.

Gina M. Reiners moved and Geraldine Marrocco seconded that Ms. Hart's license be placed on probation with conditions for a period of four years. The motion passed unanimously.

Gina M. Reiners made a motion, seconded by Geraldine Marrocco, to vacate the summary suspension of respondent's license. The motion passed with all in favor except Jason Blando who was opposed.

Cynthia Riley, RN - Petition No. 2019-1131

Diane Wilan, Staff Attorney was present for the Department of Public Health. Respondent was present with Attorney John D'Ambrosio.

Gina M. Reiners left @ 1:20 pm.

Following close of the hearing the Board conducted fact-finding.

Mary Brown moved and Jennifer Long seconded that paragraphs 1, 2, 7, 8 & 9 were proven, but paragraphs 3, 4, 5, 6, and 10 were not proven. The motion passed unanimously.

Geraldine Marrocco left @ 2:19 pm

Mary Brown moved and Jennifer Long seconded that Ms. Riley continue with probation as set forth in a June 20, 2019 Consent Order, with increased employer reports. The motion passed unanimously.

Mary Brown made a motion, seconded by Mary Dietmann, to vacate the summary suspension of respondent's license. The motion passed unanimously.

Kandance Edmondson, RN - Petition No. 2019-725

Linda Fazzina, Staff Attorney was present for the Department of Public Health. Respondent was not present and was not represented.

Mary Dietmann made a motion, seconded by Lisa Freeman, to continue the hearing to determine proof of service. The motion passed unanimously.

Laura McCauly, RN - Petition No. 2019-313

Linda Fazzina, Staff Attorney was present for the Department of Public Health. Respondent was not present and was not represented.

Jennifer Long made a motion, seconded by Mary Dietmann, to resend the Notice of hearing to determine proof of service. The motion passed unanimously.

Jasmine Quinones, LPN - Petition No. 2018-1406

Joelle Newton, Staff Attorney was present for the Department of Public Health. Respondent was present but was not represented.

Mary Dietmann made a motion, seconded by Mary Brown, to enter executive session to obtain evidence relating to confidential treatment records. The motion passed unanimously. No motions were made and no votes were taken during executive session.

Following close of the hearing the Board conducted fact-finding.

Lisa Freeman moved and Mary Brown seconded that Ms. Quinones be found as charged. The motion passed unanimously.

Lisa Freeman moved and Mary Brown seconded that Ms. Quinones' license be suspended for 6 months followed by probation for a period of 4 years. The motion passed unanimously.

Nichelle Robinson, RN - Petition No. 2018-1078

Joelle Newton, Staff Attorney was present for the Department of Public Health. Respondent was present but was not represented.

Following close of the hearing the Board conducted fact-finding.

Mary Brown moved, and Lisa Freeman seconded that paragraphs 1, 2, 3, 4 a, 5, 6, 7, 8 & 10 were proven, but paragraphs 4 b and 9 were not proven. The motion passed unanimously.

Mary Brown moved, and Lisa Freeman seconded that Ms. Robinson's license be reprimanded, and placed on probation for a period of six months, for completion of course work in professional ethics and medication documentation. The motion passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

It was the unanimous decision of the Board Members present to adjourn this meeting at 4:45 p.m.

Patricia C. Bouffard, D.N.Sc., Chair
Board of Examiners for Nursing